



Police Federation of Australia

The National Voice of Policing

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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community
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Fairer Paid Parental Leave Amendment Bill 2015

Supplementary Section:

Placing women at risk

The proposed changes have the potential to leave women, including police women, more vulnerable to experiences of family violence. Indeed, research has demonstrated that economic stress and hardship increases the likelihood of family violence.³ One such study found a family violence incidence rate of 9.5% for those reporting a subjectively high level of financial strain, compared to a rate of 2.7% for those reporting a subjectively low level of financial strain.⁴ It must also be noted that a lack of access to adequate economic resources inhibits a victim/survivors ability to leave, and commence recovery from, experiences of family violence, with access to vital services severely limited by inadequate income.⁵ In this context, expenses associated with medical and mental health care, legal representation and safe housing may be ongoing or protracted.⁶

³ Renzetti, C (2009) Economic stress and domestic violence. Harrisburg, PA: VAWnet. At <http://www.vawnet.org>

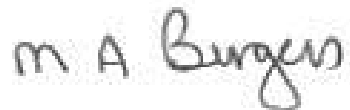
⁴ Benson, M., & Fox, G. (2004) *When violence hits home: How economics and neighbourhood play a role*. Washington, DC: Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice.

⁵ Braaf, R., & Meyering, I. (2011). *Seeking security: Promoting women's economic wellbeing following domestic violence*. Sydney: Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse.

⁶ Cortis, N., & Bullen, J. (2015) *Building effective policies and services to promote women's economic security following domestic violence*, Sydney: ANROWS, p. 8.

The PFA would be happy to provide further information to the Committee if that was required.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "m A Burgess". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Mark Burgess APM
Chief Executive Officer